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FROM LONDON TO SAMARCAND.

By

C. E. BIDDULPH.

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FROM LONDON TO SAMARCAND.

A cold dull day, and an atmosphere which seemed more fitted to London than anywhere else, found me travelling in September 1890 by the express, between Brussels and Berlin, on my way to Odessa. The line lay for the most part through the bare, level, uninteresting country which is the physical characteristic of Northern Germany, as the frightful square brick buildings with which it is studded are typical of the dull solidity of the national character. A journey through these parts is by no means devoid of trials, more especially if one is, as was the case with myself, utterly innocent of the slightest acquaintance with the language of the aborigines ; for the way in which one is hustled about and bullied and abused for being a general nuisance is an experience that is new certainly, but very beneficial for an Englishman, and more particularly for an Anglo-Indian ; at the same time it does not leave one overflowing with sympathy and loving-kindness for our German cousins.

With Berlin I was thoroughly disappointed ; it appeared to me to be entirely spoilt by the gardens, which are numerous and of large dimensions, and should have constituted one of the great beauties of the place had they been properly treated and laid out like our own parks ; but as it is, they consist of what in India we should call simply dense jungles, that is, closely grown trees with thick undergrowth, amongst which were cut numerous roads and paths. So close is the vegetation, that in many places it would be almost impossible to make way through it, while the air is perfectly still everywhere, and one is

overpowered with a general feeling of stuffiness and confinement so different from that which one experiences on entering any of our beautiful open parks in London. In Berlin, on the contrary, I felt glad to get out of the gardens into the streets, in order to fill my lungs with fresher air. I cannot think that such a system of having acres upon acres of the rankest vegetation in the centre of a large town can be at all a healthy one; its denseness in winter must be inconceivable.

At Cracow, worn out with constant travelling, I determined to remain for the night. Though too tired to wander through this interesting city as I should have wished to have done, I was much amused by watching the quaint costumes of the passers-by. Most of the women appeared to go bare-footed, at any rate such of them as were of the peasant classes, while the men wore the loose knickerbocker trousers and high boots, with elaborately embroidered coats and waistcoats, to the sight of which we are accustomed in pictures of Poles dressed in the national costume.

Apropos of the recent agitation got up by the Jews in England in favour of their fellow-countrymen in Russia, I here, for the first time, came across the Jews of the country, and more mean, rascally-looking specimens of humanity it has never been my lot to look upon. I cannot wonder at any nationality wishing to rid itself of them at any price. I am sure that all my sympathies would be as much upon the side of the Russians, Poles or Hungarians, on whom these parasites of society fatten, as it would, in India, be on that of the Rajputs, Sikhs and other dominant races in their antipathy to the Bunneahs and Marwaries, who are trading on their generous but unbusiness-like nature. The more so, that in Eastern Europe the Jews exist in numbers, of which we in England can have no conception, while they contribute in no way to the

public prosperity, their means of livelihood being almost exclusively limited to turning to their own profit the weaknesses and vices of the population amongst which they are cast, by lending money, selling liquors and other demoralizing methods. I was much amused by the hotel porter, who endeavoured to dissuade me from going to be shaved at a hair-dresser's close by, and wanted me to go about half-a-mile further to another place, because, as he explained, the former place was "kept by a Jew, and not a respectable place for a gentleman to go to." Of course I went there, nevertheless; but this little incident exactly represents the estimation in which the Jewish population is held amongst these races.

Leaving Cracow at 8 in the morning, we passed through a more or less level and well-wooded, but rather uninteresting country all day, till at night we arrived at Volocyska, the station on the Russian frontier. Here our baggage was examined, but in the most superficial manner, books being the only articles apparently which attracted attention. All my limited library was taken out, looked at, and then returned, the whole operation being conducted with the greatest consideration and politeness.

At 11 A.M. I arrived at Odessa, and proceeded immediately to the Hotel de l'Europe, where I lost no time in making myself comfortable with a bath, a change of clothes, and a good meal—all of which I was sadly in want of—before proceeding on board the steamer for Batoum, which was to leave at 3 P.M. precisely. Half-past two found me settled on board, where I found that I had a compatriot as a companion, who, being used to the ways of the country and seeing my helplessness, took charge of me for the time being. The heat on board was something inconceivable for such a geographical position. It seemed to me almost as bad as the Red Sea. This, of

course, could not possibly have been the case, as we sat on deck with small hats and only a thin awning over us; but still the perspiration trickled down one's face while sitting still, and one's clothes got rapidly saturated. At night, when one retired to the cabin down below to sleep, the atmosphere was almost suffocating; but I was so worn out with the heat and scramble of the day, that I soon fell asleep in spite of these disagreeablenesses, and did not awake till 7 A.M. the next day. I then found that during the night we had put into Eupatoria, and about mid-day we came in sight of Sevastopol. Here we remained for two hours. It was too hot to do more than take a short stroll, just enough to say that one had been in the place. There were three fine iron-clads in the Port, and in the distance was visible the unwieldy form of the famous Imperial yacht, the *Livadia*, one of Admiral Popoff's failures. What surprised me was to observe that though fine new barracks had been built, the ruin of the old ones had been left standing, apparently just as they were after the Crimean War thirty-five years ago. On a rising ground to the left of the harbour stood a fine monument to 100,000 Russian soldiers who lost their lives in defence of their country, near to which, I am told, is also the tomb of General Gorstchakoff.

The next evening we put into Yalta, the popular Crimean watering place. Nothing can describe the beauty of the scenery along this part of the coast, constituting as it does such a contrast to the barrenness and tameness of that in the neighbourhood of Sevastopol. Here the mountains rise from the very margin of the sea to a height of some 4,000 feet, their sides covered with forests and verdure, and broken here and there with deeply shaded valleys and ravines which form at their bases the most romantic little bays and inlets. It is along the sides of one of these that Yalta is built, and its appearance made

me regret most heartily the want of leisure which deprived me of the opportunity of exploring the lovely scenery in its neighbourhood. The next day the scenery along the coast had resumed its former more or less desolate aspect, and about mid-day we anchored off Kertch, the famous fortress and harbour, "the Russian Gibraltar," as I am told it is termed. Certainly the fortifications appeared endless as we entered the only approach to the harbour which passes close under them, for a big mole has been built right across the broader part of the bay, which effectually prevents any access to it except by this route. On coming on deck the following day I found we were coasting along beside the Caucasus, and lovely indeed was the view they presented, range succeeding range of mountains, covered with the densest forests and most brilliant verdure, met the eye as far as it could stretch landwards; the rankness of the vegetation reminded me of the approaches to the Himalayas through the Terai. It appeared, as indeed is the case, a land flowing with milk and honey, only calling out for a population to come and settle upon it. At present hardly a village is to be seen, so scanty are its inhabitants. There are great hopes however that, now that the useless rascally Mahomedan inhabitants, who would neither work themselves nor allow others to work, have been either reduced to order or got rid of, a more industrious population may arise in time to turn to some account the treasures which Nature here offers with such unstinting hand. It makes one ashamed, indeed, of the folly of one's countrymen when one thinks how much maudlin sentiment has been wasted over "the brave Circassian and his gallant struggles." Had any one of these known him as others have in his settlements in Asia Minor, where he is the most notorious cut-throat scoundrel that ever stepped the earth, he would have understood that such rubbish is almost as intolerable as

that propagated by the society of old women who constituted the Afghan Committee, and who were anxious to represent to the world their own fellow-countrymen as the wicked and unjustifiable oppressors of the "brave and patriotic Afghan," the latter being in fact just such another bloodthirsty ruffian as the Circassian. Such was the landscape along the verge of which we passed hour after hour, till late in the evening we put into Poti, and the next morning when I awoke we were off the landing place at Batoum, having taken 109 hours or 4½ days to do what might, with the greatest ease, have been done in half the time. This delay was owing to the reckless waste of time at the various ports at which we stopped. At none of them did we stop less than two hours, and at most from three to six hours, and this not to load or discharge cargo—for it was all done in almost a few minutes—but apparently for no reason but the mere caprice of the Captain or the passengers. At one place we stayed two or three hours for no other reason than that the Captain wanted to go ashore, and at another quite as long because some of the passengers wanted to see a monastery. The duration of the voyage, however, made it a very economical investment of one's money, for one was lodged and fed for 4½ days for about £5, the feeding was excellent, and had the heat been less, there would have been nothing to complain of in the lodging.

I have said nothing of my fellow-passengers, and yet there were many who were exceedingly pleasant, and whose kindness and sociability did much to make the hours pass agreeably; amongst others some ladies from Georgia and Armenia, who appeared extremely accomplished and well educated, one young lady in particular speaking English extremely well. We had also a celebrity with us, a young Cossack officer, who had ridden from Siberia to St. Petersburg. I forget his name, but I remem-

ber reading of his exploit. He appeared a bright, good-humoured fellow, and I should much have liked to have talked to him, but unfortunately I could not speak Russian, and he appeared to be able to talk nothing else, so our communications were necessarily restricted to smiles and bows.

The train for Tiflis and Baku left at 9 A.M., so we had just time to go on shore and get some breakfast before we started. The carriages we found most comfortable, though as they were coated with iron to prevent them catching fire from the sparks flying from the engines, as in India, they were extremely hot, for while the air outside was quite cool and fresh, the heat inside was intense, the thermometer going up to nearly 30° Reaumar as I observed, or about 100° Fahrenheit. The engines, of course, burnt the residue of the naptha and the small amount of smoke and consequently smuts evolved was remarkable, the necessary amount of naptha, too, appeared to be contained in a very small compass. We started with a sort of double-barrelled engine containing two funnels and apparently two complete sets of machinery with an open interval for the stokers and firemen. Later on, when the ascent became more marked, this was supplemented by another engine in the rear. Along the line, I remarked the pipes which extend over a part of the way from Tiflis to Batoum for the conveyance of the petroleum oil. In addition to this, there was hardly a station we passed which had not a train of some 50 or 60 huge cisterns of the same oil waiting to proceed along the line.

The line was all the way through the most lovely mountain scenery, and one's eyes were never tired of gazing at the constantly succeeding landscapes of mountain, forest, or torrents which followed one another as the train wound along the side of one range higher than another on its way to the pass over the summit at an

elevation of upwards of 3,000 feet. The steepness of the ascent appeared in no place to me to be anything like as great as that up the Ghauts to Poona, as some have compared it to, and when the tunnel through the highest portion, which is now completed, will have been opened, there will be nothing remarkable about the incline at all. The appearance of the works connected with this tunnel rather reminded me of the reckless way in which the Public Works Department in India delights to revel in masonry and cuttings and causeways, constructed regardless of expense, whenever it gets the chance, and I suppose Russian Engineers have their little weaknesses in this way as much as English ones. Certainly the approaches to the new tunnel have been made upon a most magnificent scale ; for miles before reaching it a new line had been laid out, which had involved cutting away the sides of mountains, laying huge bridges across ravines, and altogether, as it seemed to the uninitiated, making the most of every opportunity which offered itself for spending money.

The population of these regions, that is of Mingrelia and Georgia, as far as I could judge from the specimens I saw at the stations and at work along the line, are of far different appearance and physique from what I had anticipated, for the most part they appeared to me very fine specimens of the European race, both as regards fairness of skin and physical strength and proportions, whilst some of the other races which I encountered were of the most magnificent physique and stately bearing. The Armenians, of course, presented a more Oriental, and also, from a general point of view, whether physique or morale, a less impressive type of population. It is strange to think that such ridiculous and extravagant ideas still exist in some British breasts, as that it would be possible to stir up disaffection amongst these popula-

tions, for, to all appearance, the only parallel absurdity would be the discussion by the Russians of the possibility of rousing the Highland clans against British rule, so completely have the inhabitants of these regions become identified with the Russians, and that, too, with the greatest eagerness and gratitude on their part apparently for the opportunity thus afforded of freedom from Turkish rule; particularly must they congratulate themselves now a-days upon this fact, that they hear daily the reports of all sorts of atrocities being perpetrated amongst their fellow-Christians in Armenia, and of the truth of these reports, whatever may be said to the contrary, there can be little question.

Nothing is more surprising than to observe the fine physique and soldier-like bearing of the Russian soldiers here, so different from the impression generally prevailing amongst Englishmen. The men are great, broad-shouldered fellows, well set up and active, while the officers are a most remarkably intelligent looking and smartly turned out lot, and both would compare favourably with any other European troops that I have seen. Both officers and men, too, have a particularly impressive bearing, they carry themselves, as every British soldier is taught to do, as if they were proud of themselves, and yet without the offensively overbearing demeanour of the Prussian soldiers. Altogether the impression derived from such specimens of the Russian troops as are seen about here is most favourable to them.

It is the characteristic of the English nation to despise and depreciate a rival, and it is to be feared that our appreciation of Russia's military power is derived rather from what we would wish to think it than from what it actually is. It is to be trusted most sincerely that we may never find out our mistake, but these are questions that should be studied carefully and coolly with a mind unbiased by national training and prejudices.

Sunday at Tiflis gave me a great insight into some of the national habits. All the shops were shut, but the streets were full of people in holiday costume, and this removed the dismal effect produced by the closing of the shops in England on a holiday. In the evening I went for a drive to the gardens whither everyone resorts in the cool of the evening. There I found crowds of people promenading and no less than four bands playing alternately at different parts; as soon as one stopped another struck up: one of them was a Mingrelian band, and the peculiar tones of the instruments and the wildness of the airs which it played reminded me much of the music of the Turkish bands at Constantinople. Beer appeared to be the popular beverage drunk, or tea, which always seems to have the first claim upon a Russian's affection, and which he drinks boiling hot, whatever may be the time of the day or the season of the year. I like it myself, it is not too strong and most refreshing, though not having a cast-iron throat, I prefer not to drink it while it is absolutely boiling; at every hour of the day, and at every restaurant or buffet, you see people sipping it and talking and smoking over it just as Frenchmen do over their coffee.

At the time of our arrival here General Annenkoff was due on his way from St. Petersburg to Central Asia, and in the course of the evening of the following day he arrived. As his stay was only for a day, my fellow-travellers and myself were introduced to him. Nothing could be more urbane than his manner, and he informed us that the "autorisation speciale", required from St. Petersburg to enable us to travel over the Trans-Caspian line, had been duly received, and that we could thus continue our journey according to programme. The next day was spent in visiting the sights of the town. There is not much of interest about it except in the evidence it brings to bear as to the enterprising and go-a-head spirit of the Russian Government. What but some years ago was nothing but

a tumble-down collection of semi-oriental buildings is now a very fair specimen of a European town with several fine streets, as good hotels as any you would find in Europe—nothing could be more comfortable than the Hotel de Londres at which I am staying—capital public gardens, tramways all over the town, good shops, and in fact replete with every modern luxury and convenience. So much have things been misrepresented, or so anxious have we been to believe that the Russia of to-day is the same as that of thirty or forty years ago, that the majority of Englishmen are as ignorant of the tremendous advance she has made during this period as they are of the most ordinary topics of our political position in India, and no more striking analogy could possibly occur to one. But the fact of these advances are undeniable, they *saute aux yeux*, as the French would say, the proofs are before one's eyes in fine roads and buildings, magnificent railways constructed with the greatest skill and in the most substantial manner, through the most difficult regions, in the bearing and physique of the soldiery, and in the general demeanour of the local population which, in spite of their comparatively recent addition to the Empire, have the appearance of being completely Russian. The town itself is built in a hollow on a piece of high ground surrounded by mountains. These latter have been completely stripped of every vestige of forest, consequently the heat is out of all proportion with the altitude above the sea-level. At present the temperature during the day time is quite bearable, while the nights are beginning to get chilly.

Instead of being able to proceed according to the programme published by the International Company of Sleeping Cars, we now find that the date of departure of the steamer from Baku had been altered, by which a delay of two days is involved, and further that the special authorization to travel upon the Trans-Caspian line has

not yet been received from St. Petersburg, and until this has arrived, it is hopeless to think of going beyond Baku ; personally, I rather prefer staying a few days longer to recruit myself before encountering the heat and wearisomeness of the railway journey across Transcaspia, as I have been suffering considerably from fever for the last few days, which appears to be a common complaint at this time of year. I was much struck this morning by the appearance of an officer who was sitting at a table adjoining mine. He might have passed for a very good specimen of an Englishman, with his fair hair, ruddy complexion, and deeply marked, but thoughtful and intelligent features. His manners appeared to be of the most cultivated, and his bearing quite that of one accustomed to receive attention and mix as more than an equal in general society. This I found on enquiry to be the famous Colonel Alikhanoff. He is, of course, of a type purely Russian, and such as we have no parallel to in any portion of our colonies or dominions ; it is one that can hardly be understood or appreciated without personal experience. To imagine that it would be possible for us to adopt a policy towards any of the natives of India similar to that of which he is the type of Russia's towards her Mahomedan subjects, is too absurd to think of, except in very rare and exceptional instances. To begin with, there is no race in India that can approach near enough in general intelligence as well as manliness to this type ; for in India, while the manly and warlike races scorn all learning, the intelligent races are fit for nothing but an office desk, and would be as much out of place with a sword or a rifle in their hands as any timid girl ; indeed, more so. Again, the only races who could command the respect of their fellow-countrymen sufficiently to hold anything approaching a similar position amongst them would be Rajputs and Mahomedans of high birth. Something, indeed, might be done towards

educating these for positions of responsibility by raising bodies of militia, on systems similar to that of the Cossacks, amongst the followers of these, and placing them in charge of their respective chiefs. Amongst the Rajputs this would be more particularly feasible, as a tribal organisation of something of a similar nature already exists amongst them.

Tiflis is a place the delights of which are soon exhausted, particularly at this time of year when the heat is still intense and the climate very feverish from the sudden changes in temperature between day and night, and we were all heartily tired of our visit after three or four days. The evening of our departure a serious fire broke out amongst some petroleum wagons near the station, and we were in great fear that our departure might be further delayed. However, it was soon brought under, and midnight found us on our way to Baku. The carriages were all crowded in consequence, as we found out, of the expected arrival of the Finance Minister of Russia, who was on his way to make a tour through Central Asia. It was a most unfortunate event that our visit should have coincided with his, as we found out to our cost on frequent occasions later on, all our plans being upset in consequence. In addition to the want of space the night was an extremely hot one, so much so that it was difficult to take any rest, streaming as one was with perspiration. Towards the morning it got cooler, and when day broke we found that we had left the hills and valleys of the Caucasus and were running along an open plain shut in on either side by ranges of mountains which gradually receded on either side as the plain widened; then it was that we began to realise that we had left Europe behind and had entered Asia. The population, instead of being more or less of a European type, were now replaced by regular Tartars in sheep-skin hats and rags for clothes,

while droves of camels appeared at intervals along the side of the rail. The land appeared peculiarly productive, and was covered with rich crops irrigated by streams from the hills. As, however, we approached the Caspian, and this water-supply diminished, the landscape assumed the aspect so familiar to an old Indian of bare dusty plains and hills of earth and stones.

The first view of the Caspian was, I must say, most effective. Far, far away upon the horizon of these stretches of sand and dust appeared a bluish cloud as it were, which, as we approached, resolved itself into a streak of the most brilliant blue imaginable, deepening in colour every moment as we got nearer, till we found ourselves on the very edge of an apparently boundless sheet of water stretching in an unbroken expanse as far as the eye could reach to our right. We wound along close beside this for several hours before coming in sight of Baku, the first intimation of our near approach to which was the sight in the distance of the lofty wooden structures which protect the petroleum wells, and with which the ground is studded in their neighbourhood, till, in the distance, they appear almost like a forest. Leaving these some 7 or 8 miles to the left, we turned abruptly to the right, and then Baku itself came into our view. The town is most picturesquely situated, being built all round the edge of a large bay, and we were all astonished at the fineness of the buildings and shops and streets in a place which we had imagined to be almost beyond the pale of civilisation. The Baku of to-day, however, is as different from that of ten years ago, as it is possible to imagine and this was only the first intimation of the surprises that we found in store for us, and of the evidence of the astonishing progress that has been made in these parts within recent years. Baku as it now stands is a remarkably handsome town with all the conveniences of an

advanced civilisation, fine streets, excellent shops, and hotels. Of the latter I cannot express myself in the same terms of admiration as of the admirable picture of which they form a part. In appearance they are good, the rooms are large and airy with fine passages leading to them, but the utter deficiency of the absolute necessaries of life according to an Englishman's idea of comfort, was something appalling to contemplate. The rooms were destitute of any furniture beyond a bed, a chair, and a table, and it was with the greatest difficulty that a basin, supply of water, &c., were procurable. This we found to be generally the case in hotels. It is a deficiency which it is the more difficult to explain, as all the Russian officers I came across were, as I have said, remarkably clean and smart in their appearance.

During the latter part of our journey from Tiflis we had been congratulating ourselves upon the coolness of the temperature and the delicious breeze that was blowing as we approached the Caspian, and such indeed was the case ; but, like Karachi, the air in Baku itself was laden with moisture, and the moment that the breeze was interrupted, one burst out in perspiration, the consequence was, that owing to the number of buildings which intercepted the air, the atmosphere in the hotel, though far pleasanter than that of Tiflis, was not altogether as cool as one had expected. It seems a pity that the principal streets should have been built without any regard to this, as if they had been made a little broader and facing the sea a very fine esplanade might have been attained, which would have vastly improved the appearance of the town. However, this is to expect too much. What astonishes a visitor more than anything else is, that such a fine town as now exists should have sprung up in so short a time. In the evening, about 6 P.M., we made our way down to the steam-boat which was to convey us to

Uzun Ada. There we found that all the first-class accommodation had been taken up by the Minister of Finance and his suite, so we were obliged to travel second-class. In this we did not find much cause for grievance, as the accommodation was remarkably good, and we had two berths retained for each of us to make up for the presumed inconvenience. At the same time it struck one as strange that for a great official, such as a Financial Minister, some special provision had not been made by placing a special steamer at his disposal, and, again, that the public should have been put to such inconvenience as would not have been tolerated elsewhere for the sake of an official—both probably points characteristic of the people.

Fortunately, the sea was very fairly smooth, and our voyage across a very pleasant one. The most interesting part was naturally the approach to Uzun Ada, for many miles before arriving at which our way lay through endless shallows and sand banks, amidst which our path had been carefully marked out by buoys, which it must have taken infinite pains to lay down. We passed close by Krasnovodsk on the left, and could understand the superior advantages of its position if only water had been attainable there ; and, finally, about 4 P.M., we found ourselves suddenly off Uzun Ada : this being a little bay on a level shore, was not visible to us amidst the windings of our course till we found ourselves close by it. There we found a comfortable carriage placed at our disposal, and in it we accordingly took up our quarters for the three days and two nights' journey which was to take us to Samarcand. The train left about 7 P.M., and shortly after it had started we adjourned to the restaurant carriage attached for dinner. This, though plain, was excellent of its kind, and I made the best meal I had had since leaving Odessa, off strictly local produce, namely, pheasant from the neighbourhood of Uzun Ada, and a bottle of Samarcand wine,

which appeared to me to be quite as good as ordinary hock. The carriage in which the restaurant was held was of an older type than that of the one in which we were travelling, and vibrated so with the motion of the train that it was difficult to keep the glasses on the table. This gave one an idea of the "désagréments" of the line to which former travellers have referred, but which certainly were not realised in our case except in this instance, for anything more comfortable than the carriage which we were travelling in—which, moreover, was only a second-class one—it would be difficult to wish for. Having, as I say, made an excellent meal, I returned to my carriage and there slept soundly through the night, only waking up at 6 A.M. the next day, when we were some stations past that of Kizil Arvat. Here I found we were entering upon scenery which reminded me very much of that of Sibi and its neighbourhood : in the cold weather be it noted. On the right barren ranges of mountains, and on the left an endless stretch of plains of apparently the most productive soil, for wherever water was procurable appeared flourishing villages, surrounded by gardens and fields with exceptionally rich crops of jowar, lucerne. In some places where the water had run waste, the most luxuriant stretches of grass jungle had sprung up, while I noticed that even where this was not the case, the whole of the surface of the ground was covered with the *débris* of dry grass which bore witness to the richness of the vegetation which it produced in the spring after the melting of the snow. Altogether the extent from here to Merv appeared to me to be the most promising part of the country which came under my observation in the course of my transit along the line, if only water and a sufficient population to make use of it were procurable. As regards the former requisite, doubtless the present supply will be made to go much further than it does now under more efficient management.

As it is, a great part of it appeared to be wasted ; and, further than this, additional supplies would doubtless be made available from the neighbouring hills. As soon as this becomes the case, there would be but little difficulty in finding a population willing to make use of the inducements there offered them by the richness of the soil, now that life and property are rendered secure from all dangers. Altogether I should consider the present position of this extent of territory as very analogous to that of Sind, when first taken under our administration and freed from the incursions of Beloochees and similar predatory tribes ; and I should imagine that if proper steps were taken, as it appears to be the intention of the authorities to do, it would soon prove, in spite of its present unpromising aspect, almost as great a success as that province has in our hands. The difficulties and dangers with which the operations of agriculture had hitherto been carried on were amply demonstrated by the fortified condition of the villages, and by the numerous little mud watch towers which dotted the fields. Altogether, as I say, the landscape in its general effect almost made one imagine oneself back in Kutchi, barring the heat which, though extreme for Europe, was trifling compared to Sind. I do not suppose that it would be possible to turn this productive soil to much account for very many miles distance from the hills whence appears to be the only present available water-supply, unless some means could be found for making a canal through it ; but even without this, narrow though it would be in breadth; by reason of its length, for it stretches for about 350 miles, this culturable area must constitute in any case a very valuable acquisition.

About mid-day we halted for about 10 minutes at Geok Teppe, and the famous enclosure being close by the station, of course we all started off to look at it. Had we had but a few minutes more, we could have entered by the very

breach by which the Russian troops stormed it. The walls appeared very much smaller in their dimensions of height and thickness than I had imagined. That is probably owing to the fact that in India one is accustomed to the sight of structures of this kind. The first thing that struck one on climbing to the top of the wall was what an extraordinary and unaccountable piece of infatuation it was on the part of these Turcomans to go and entrench themselves behind these walls. If they had taken every possible pains to secure their utter ruin they could not have done more; whereas if only they had taken to the hills, as Afghans or Beloochees would have done under similar circumstances, or scattered over the plains and laid in wait for convoys and detached parties, they might have almost indefinitely protracted the advance of the Russian forces. What a godsend it would have been for us on several occasions if we could only have got 30 or 40,000 Pathans to shut themselves up behind some good high walls and then allow us to surround and annihilate them. But they have always shown themselves a great deal too cautious to fall into such a trap, much less make one of the kind for themselves; and while they have always swarmed in thousands to attack us at a disadvantage, and never lost an opportunity of collecting to intercept a convoy or a detached body of troops, the difficulty has been to get enough of them together to make any impression upon them when the advantage has been on our side. However, if it was a piece of infatuation on the part of the Turcomans to devise such a scheme as building Geok Teppe, it was a special dispensation of Providence which guided them to its execution, for the result has been that they have had a lesson such as has entirely altered the social condition of the country; for the peasant can now cultivate his ground and reap his crops in perfect security from all chance of disturbance.

Askabad was distinguishable in the distance by the gleam of the sunlight upon a fountain which springs up to a height of some 10 to 15 feet from the midst of a grove of young trees of various descriptions planted near the station. The rapid growth of these trees would, if no other evidence were obtainable, be sufficient proof of the richness of the soil where water is procurable. We passed Dushakh just as it became dark, and Merv, unfortunately, in the middle of the night. The next morning, when looking out, we found ourselves in the middle of sand hills, not the famous moving ones which threaten to swallow up a great part of the Bokhara territory to the west, but hills of sand which evidently in the spring have been covered with dense vegetation of grass and weeds, as could be seen from the dried up *débris* lying upon the surface and the strata of densely interlaced roots which extended to a depth of about 2 to 3 feet below the surface. This led me to believe in the truth of the assertion of one of my fellow-travellers, who was a Russian merchant living in Samarcand, later on regarding the moving sand hills which he said were composed, not of real sand, but of détritus of soil of a very good description, which would be most productive if it could only be got to stand still, but consisting, as they do, of very finely divided particles, this is exactly what it is the difficulty to accomplish, and, in the meantime, it is driven about like water under the influence of the wind in every direction which the latter takes. An hour or two later we entered upon these curious sand hills, and there the appearance the landscape presented beats in reality any description that has ever been given. As far as the eye could reach, on either side stretched great billows of sand rising in many cases to a height of upwards of 30 feet, each of almost exactly the same contour and appearance as the other, the lee side descending abruptly in a semi-circular form to the bottom, while the windward side gradually sloped away.

The wind was blowing from the N. W. as we passed along this tract in an almost due northerly direction, and the appearance of these conelike hills, all rising one behind another as far as the eye could reach, was more curious than can be imagined. On one side nothing but the abrupt and semi-circular lee sides met the eye, while on the other nothing could be seen but the sloping and smooth surfaces of the windward portions. This area of sand must have extended for some thirty or forty miles, till, as we approached the Amu Darya, it became replaced by richly cultivated land and villages ; but even this had been encroached upon at the margins, as was evident by the remains of villages rising from the midst of sand. The encroachments, however, of these moving sands became more strikingly apparent some miles beyond the Amu Darya, when, after traversing a stretch of well-cultivated land, we came upon an area which was gradually being swallowed up by the sand. The sight it presented was most curious. For miles we passed by what had evidently been formerly populated and well-cultivated villages. Some of these had been completely engulfed, so that they had been entirely deserted, and not a sign of vegetation remained. Trees, bushes, grass, all alike had been buried beneath the sand. In the case of others the operation was in process, and a few trees and a little cultivation were still visible ; while in the case of some the process appeared to have only just commenced, and the surface of the fields was dotted with little tiny sand hills in course of formation. Judging from the general appearance, one would imagine that the wind must blow steadily from the same quarter, *viz.*, the N. W., for many months at a time, otherwise it would be difficult to account for the steady and unrelenting invasion of the sand in this direction, for the particles are so minute and friable that the least gust of wind in an opposite direction would drive them back to the same point they came from. After this

we came upon the land watered by the Lower Zarafshan in Bokhara territory, and this certainly presented a very promising aspect, reminding one very much in its general appearance of such places as Mastoong in Kelat or Gulistan in the Peshin, patches of lucerne, jowar, orchards, vineyards, plane trees, poplars, all the gardens enclosed by high mud walls; but there certainly was nothing about this part any more than about that irrigated by the Upper Zarafshan in Russian territory, as far as one could see, to justify such extravagant descriptions as "constitutes a veritable Garden of Eden." Naturally, after crossing miles of sand, the verdure of the cultivation strikes a traveller more forcibly; but its richness is only comparative, and the epithet thus applied of "Garden of Eden" must be only taken in the same sense in which Dadur and Quetta were described in the same terms by those who arrived at these places respectively in the hot weather, after marching across the burning deserts of Kutchi and the barren rocks of the Bolan Pass.

Night fell while we were still crossing the Bokharan territory, watered by the Zarafshan, and the morning found us amidst great bare, trackless plains, with villages at long intervals. This barrenness of the landscape appeared to be owing to the ground being at too high a level for water to find its way there, and I only noticed one well all the time we were traversing these plains. As far as the eye could reach, there appeared no sign of a bush even, and the monotony of the view was only broken now and then by a mud-walled and mud-roofed village and low hills in the distance. The general effect produced would have been that of the Dasht-i-Bedoulat near Quetta, but that the soil appeared to be good, for in many places it had been ploughed for large extents, evidently in anticipation of rain, upon which to sow a winter crop of corn. The ground was covered with camel thorn which the villagers appeared to be busy cutting pre-

sumably for firewood, as it is difficult to imagine to what other purpose it could have been applied. Others were clearing boosa, and were evidently intent upon making provision for the approaching winter. The sheep about here appeared to be very fine, but I was surprised at the fewness of their numbers, nothing to approach the vast herds of goats and sheep visible in the plains about Quetta, and very few cattle were to be seen, horses here seemed to supply their place for all agricultural purposes, as I observed them being used for threshing out grain, and I imagine they must be used also for ploughing, as no camels were apparent to the eye.

After traversing these plains, we again entered almost abruptly upon the sphere of irrigation of the Upper Zarafshan. The scene presented was very much the same as in the case of the neighbourhood of Bokhara, only that it appeared wider, this being probably owing to a better management of the water-supply. We could observe from the rail, however, that this area of cultivation was quite limited in its extent, and the term "Zarafshan" must be taken to imply not a river that spreads any very great amount of wealth over a large extent of land, but one along the banks of which a limited stretch of highly cultivated land has sprung up as compared with the generally barren aspect of the country. The relation of the Zarafshan to the country surrounding appeared to me to be very much on a parallel to that of the Nile in Egypt or the Indus in Sind. On either side of it stretches a belt of cultivation, but beyond this come endless extents of barren land or absolute desert. Altogether the productive capabilities of this region appeared to me to be much overrated, unless the present area of cultivation were capable of very considerable extension.

At Samarcand we alighted at a very fine railway station, quite as good as most of our second rate stations in England, and there we found a number of carriages waiting

to take us off to our destinations. A drive of about three miles brought us into the Russian station, where we found a very comfortable hotel to alight in, the rooms perfectly clean, and, wonderful to say, a bath-room with a huge bath and water, hot and cold, available! Here we were only too delighted to repose our weary selves after the three nights and two days' journey which it had taken to bring us here from Uzum Ada. At the same hotel I found a Frenchman who was in charge of a wine manufactory at Kara-Kul, a station between Bokhara and Amou Darya. He appeared to think very highly of the prospects awaiting this business. He asked me to taste some of his wine, and certainly it appeared to me to be quite as good as any ordinary European white wine. He told me he had only started the factory the last two years: the cut-turn of the last year being 240,000 litres. He had had it stored in large under-ground cellars, and intended to manufacture it as a sparkling wine for which there is a greater demand in Russia.

The European town of Samarcand would rather remind one of a large cantonment in India with its long, broad roads crossing one another at right angles and its public gardens and fort, were it not that these roads are lined in parts with shops held by Europeans, and that the European population altogether represents about ten times the amount that would be seen in the biggest station up-country. Russian shops, Russian coachmen, Russian servants are seen all through the streets, altogether the effect produced is of a European town in which the natives of the country are in the minority, and it has been correctly remarked that Samarcand is inconceivably more European in its character than any British station in India. After traversing so many miles of bare and desert country it is refreshing to find oneself amongst trees again, and the streets are lined and the compounds covered with poplars and planes which grow in profusion, indeed they are allowed too much

license almost in this respect, for the shade is too dense, and this with the numerous streams of running water which flow along each side of the roads and through all the compounds, make the place rather feverish. The feeling of the air at this time of year as the sun sets reminds one by its dampness and chilliness of Jacobabad as the cold weather is coming on. We have all had a touch of fever since we came here and have had to take to quinine, while a party of Frenchmen who came at the same time have I hear been seriously laid up. I confess myself, however interesting this trip may have been, that nothing would delight me more than to be transported forthwith to a comfortable house in England ; however, that will come in time, and when it does come will be appreciated all the more for present experiences. The actual sights in Samarcand would only take a day to visit, but to those interested in such spectacles several days might be spent with ease in examining the ruins of the Righistan, the Tomb of Shah Zindeh and the Madrasseh Bibi Khanum. The latter impressed me most, of course the peculiar inclination of the minarets was discussed, and the idea that it was an ocular deception duly ridiculed. These ruins have been so often described that it is wasting time to say anything about them, still one cannot help expressing one's astonishment at the brilliance of the colours exhibited by the tiles after so many hundred years.

The streets of the native town are of course crowded with specimens of all the various Central Asian nationalities, principally Usbegs and Kirghiz. I met a number of Pathans also who seemed much surprised to hear themselves addressed in their own language. One man I found to be a former sepoy of Jacob's Rifles. He told me his home was at Ghuznee, what he was doing here I do not know. He looked rather a rascal, and to curry favour with me as I suppose, began to abuse the Russians. I soon shut

him up however by telling him I would hand him over to a Russian policeman. I was anxious to make out the distinction of the races and was soon able to understand the difference between a Tajik or Sart and an Usbeg and Kirghiz. The town population appears to consist principally of the former who all speak Persian, while the Usbegs and Kirghiz constitute the rural population and speak Turki. In spite of this community of language however they are perfectly distinct races as is evident from their features, those of the Kirghiz being of the Mongolian type, while the Usbegs are like the Turks ; they keep perfectly distinct and do not intermarry, so how the meaningless term of Turko-Tartar as a comprehensive designation for these races ever came into existence it is difficult to imagine, it would be just as sensible to describe the English and Scotch races as an Anglo-Scottish race, indeed a great deal more so, for those races do intermarry, whereas the Kirghiz and Usbegs, as I have said, do not. The Tajiks appear a quiet, useful, hardworking people. They are employed in every sort of work in the European station. The servants are all Tajiks. The one at the hotel I am stopping at is a capital fellow and I never was so thankful for having acquired a colloquial knowledge of Persian, however slight, as I can get everything done for me with ease, while without it I should be as helpless as a child ; besides this, it enables me to pick up all sorts of information in the bazaar and from chance people whom I meet, which it would be impossible to do otherwise. I have Wollaston's Anglo-Persian Dictionary always kept religiously by me to refer to in case of a difficulty and manage to get on capitally with its assistance. It is surprising at first to see the little attention which a stranger excites in the place—a foreigner putting up at a Dawk Bungalow at Peshawar and wandering about the bazaar would attract everybody's notice, but here, owing I suppose to the number of Europeans, one

appears to be able to do as one likes without the slightest notice being taken of one. I must say, as far as my experience goes, the Russians appear to be the most tolerant and easy-going people I ever came across. I suppose they have their eagle eye upon one, but it is done in such a way that one is not in the least aware of it, certainly when one contrasts their demeanour in these matters with the idiotic alarms of "Russian Spy." which occurred periodically a few years ago as often as a foreigner appeared in India, it tells very much in their favour. Personally I am of opinion that the more the two races could see of one another in their respective Asiatic possessions the better they would be able to understand one another and the less rubbish would be talked mutually upon either side about Russian invasions in the one case and British tyranny in the other. I suppose such opinions are too liberal at present, but I should like to see a personally conducted tour of Russian visitors, officials and otherwise, escorted under Mr. Cook's able management throughout the whole of India with every facility offered them by local officials to thoroughly understand our system of administration and position in the country. I am sure it would have the effect of completely removing many erroneous ideas at present entertained by certain Russians on those subjects which have probably been put into their heads by refugees from India with the object of currying favour. It is curious to notice how universally the Afghans appear to be hated in these parts, as they are generally in the East, on account of their swaggering manners, brutality and treachery. One of the Pathans I met yesterday told me he had come here with Ishak Khan. I suppose they must mostly consist of refugees who have escaped here out of Abdurrahman's clutches.

I visited the bazaar again several times during my stay, once in particular on market day, when the streets were crowded with people coming in from all the neighbourhood

round, all on horse-back, with wallets to carry back their requirements. I was quite astonished at the number of horses that were visible. I had no idea that the neighbourhood could have produced so many, for along the line of rail but few were to be seen, this is probably owing to the fact that like those of the Beloochees they are kept inside the villages or in the houses always, but here they were in hundreds, almost thousands one might say, for the torrent through the streets was incessant, the riders seemed to do the great part of their business without dismounting. Altogether the scene was most interesting and characteristic of Central Asian customs. I am sure that fifty times the number of horses were then visible that would ever be seen together in any one place in India. They were almost all mares as might be expected, the general type appeared to be that of a good specimen of a country-bred, but with better shoulders and quarters and stouter legs than are usually seen in these, the tail too was well set like an Arab's, they ranged about 14 to 14-2, besides these there were numerous ponies of about 13-2 to 14 hands, of a much stouter build, and with rougher coats. My guide did not seem to wish me to remain in the market, probably for fear of some unpleasantness, so I only just looked round. Every sort of local produce was visible, wheat, barley, rice, &c., forming the principal items. I noticed a quantity of very fine block salt and was told that it came from near Charjui. As I was wandering through the bazaar I saw some Pathans sitting at a shop and addressed them in Pushtoo. They were delighted and insisted upon my sitting down and taking some tea. They had all come here with Ishak Khan and were anxious for news of what was going on in Afghanistan. I told them that they ought to know better than I, but they said that they never heard anything of what was going on. Altogether they seemed very unhappy and down upon their luck. I asked them

why they did not go their homes. They replied that when it would please God to remove Abdurrahman they would be very glad to return, but that till then it was impossible. I found afterwards that there were a number of Pathan shops, their exclusive specialite seemed to be Indian green tea. I must have seen certainly fifteen or twenty shops of this nature, all kept by Pathans and full of green tea from India. They all said that large quantities were imported. The piece-goods, as I have expected, were exclusively of Russian manufacture, and to my uninitiated eye appeared to be very good of their kind. I was surprised to observe that not a single Russian soldier or policeman was to be seen in the whole town—on duty I mean. The people seemed to be left entirely to their own ways, so different from what is the case in Indian towns, where, in the interior, a certain number of policemen are always on duty, and on the frontier at any rate one or two military picquets as well. Altogether the total absence of any outward signs of force in these parts have struck me very much. Of course there must be large numbers of troops I suppose somewhere or other, but they are not kept "*en evidence*"; all that one sees of them are a few soldiers loafing about with only their side-arms on. I suppose the policy must be to give the offenders such a dressing if a disturbance of any kind or unpleasant episode does occur as to make its repetition a matter for very serious consideration; at any rate every one walks about the streets of the bazaar just as if one were in Regent Street and without any sign apparent of the presence of a policeman or other guardian of the peace. At the time that I visited the bazaar on this occasion, which was about 10 A.M., every one was drinking tea, all the shop-keepers as they sat at their stalls were sipping it. I was much amused at the numerous invitations I received from the Pathans, when they found I was an Englishman, to come and have a cup of tea, they all

seemed genuinely pleased to see me, why? God knows! for the British protégé, Abdurrahman, had been playing the mischief with their relations for years past. They seemed principally Ghilzais and appeared to be all quite disappointed when I told them that we had no intention of going to Candahar, as they would insist upon it was the case.

Apropos of horses I should observe that, though we kept an anxious look out all along the line of rail for any specimens of Turcoman horses, the only representatives we came across of this far famed cavalry were villagers riding donkeys, mostly two at a time, of these any number were visible. I suppose the fact of the apparent absence of horses must, as I say, be explained by the fact that they are kept inside the villages and only used for going longish distances, not for merely going from one village to another, or wandering about the plain after herds of cattle and camels, &c.

I went for a drive this morning as far as the Zarafshan to a point where are the ruins of two gigantic arches which are all that remain of a bridge built across this river as the natives say by Tamerlane, but whether this is the case or no I cannot say, they have a way here of ascribing every great ruin that one sees to this conqueror as the easiest way probably of getting out of any further trouble. The arches are most remarkable for their size and massiveness, the largest has a span of from 70-80 feet and a height of about 30-35 feet as far as I could make out. I could see no traces of their continuation further on, or the remains of a road even leading up to them. From the top of a hill near I got a capital view of the valley of Samarcand; looking down I was more impressed with its fertility than passing through it. The view I must say was most effective, it looked one mass of green. As I stood almost due N. of the city it was shut in on the E. and W. at a distance

of about three and six miles respectively by ranges of mountains, amongst which to the E. could be discerned in the distance some snowy peaks which glanced in the sunlight. Towards the S. W. and S. the valley widened out as far as the eye could reach to a distance of about twenty to thirty miles, perhaps but in the extreme distance I could distinguish with the aid of my field-glass the outlines of further ranges of mountains looming through the haze. The brilliance of the verdure did not appear to me to be entirely owing to cultivation, for a great portion of the water seemed, as far as I could make out, to be allowed to run to waste owing to a deficient system of irrigation, this is a defect which I can easily imagine it would involve great difficulties and immense expenditure to rectify in any way; for this river like the Oxus does not appear to have made for itself any regular channel within which it could be retained by embankments but to wander along on its course in the most erratic manner. Though exceptionally low just now it stretched at intervals across about a mile of country, consisting of about a dozen different streams, which if they could have all been confined within one bed would have made a decent river, as it was, none of them appeared more than about 2 to 3 feet deep. They told me that after heavy rains and the melting of the snows the whole of this extent was covered with a rushing flood of water which rendered it completely impassable. It seems curious that these rivers should never have hollowed out for themselves a regular channel, and of course this peculiarity of theirs detracts considerably from their value for purposes of irrigation, while it renders any schemes for remedying this defect extremely difficult in execution. About a couple of miles before coming to the Zarafshan itself we crossed a number of channels of the Siob as it is called (Siah Ab being the proper name), this is a branch of the Zarafshan, it derives its name from the colour of its water which is dark and apparently laden

with particles of soil. The natives say that it is peculiarly fertilizing and as such much superior to the main stream of the Zarafshan further on which is extremely clear. It runs at a much lower level than the latter, and it is probably owing to the fact that it contains soil as well as minerals in solution that it is not good for drinking purposes, its effects upon the system being much of the same character as those produced by the drinking of surface stream water in Quetta, which are too well known to need description.

Returning through the bazaar, I noticed that the shops which had been all open on my way out were closed and the streets quite deserted, all the people having gone to prayers as it was Friday. In the evening I went to listen to the Band in the Gardens, it played extremely well and the garden I found very pretty, altogether I should have enjoyed spending an hour there very much, but that it struck me that my appearance seemed to attract a little attention amongst the officers and others collected there, so after strolling about a bit, I returned to my hotel. Passing through the bazaar I came across an old Hindoo who had been here as he told me for forty years. He said in former days there used to be numbers of Hindoos here but that the Russians had driven them all out except himself and his brother and their servant. It appears that most of the Hindoos formerly living here were money-lenders at very high rates of interest, and that the Russians finding that they had a demoralizing effect upon the inhabitants of the country, without farther discussion cancelled all the debts that these latter had contracted and expelled the Hindoos from the place. The old man groaned and sighed dreadfully over his losses, and said the Russians were not like the English, such *zulum* would never have been allowed in India. However, he got very little sympathy from me, for I told him that unfortunately we were not as wise as the

Russians in this respect, but that we might yet take a lesson from them. What a jubilee indeed there would be throughout Hindustan if a proclamation were suddenly issued that up to a certain date all debts owing by the Ryots to the Bunneahs would be cancelled. It would be the saving of the country, if it were not for the certainty that in about six months time they would be just as deeply in debt as ever. After parting with my Hindoo friends I came across a lot of Pathans again, who mostly recognised me by sight or report, for I found that they all knew that a Sahib had been seen who talked a little Pushtoo and Persian, and nothing would satisfy them but that I should join them and drink some tea. I accordingly sat down and talked to them for hours. They were all Ishak Khan's followers, many of them came from Candahar. They would have it that the British Government had broken or was going to break with Abdurrahman, and were much surprised when I insisted upon the contrary. They seemed to think that the latter was playing a very deep game, but these insinuations were probably only the result of their own intense hatred of him. They told me that altogether there were about 10,000 of them scattered about the frontier of Afghan Turkestan, waiting for something to turn up.

Seeing the Fort gates open I strolled in in a casual sort of way to look at the Koktash or Coronation Stone of the descendants of Timur. I was rather amused at the easy-going way in which the sentries and soldiers let me pass without asking me who I was or what I wanted. The servant who was with me pointed out the stone which was lying on a raised platform at the end of what had been a Mosque but which was now a godown for military stores.

The next morning we drove out to visit the Summer Barracks of the Troops. This seems to be a capital institution; during the summer months, while the heat in the Fort itself, closely packed as the buildings are and

surrounded by high ramparts, would be excessive, the garrison is marched out about three miles and there encamped in long lines of mud huts, cool and well ventilated, with rows of trees shading them. The huts themselves are of a very primitive description, being apparently absolutely devoid of doors or windows, large openings running along the walls at a length of three or four feet from the ground acting as a substitute for the latter, while the sheds were open at each end. Nothing could be more suitable than the appearance which these buildings presented for the purpose they were intended for in a moderate climate such as that of Samarcand, and they must be very effective in assisting towards the maintenance of good health amongst the troops during the hot season. We heard that some manœuvres were to take place shortly in the neighbourhood of this camp, and indeed in the course of the day several Regiments marched in from the various outposts in the neighbourhood to take part in them; these would have been most interesting to witness, but unfortunately it was impossible for us to remain longer and we had to leave that evening on our way back.

On arriving at the station we found that General Annenkoff had with the greatest kindness and consideration placed one of his own private carriages at our disposal and attached it to the special train which was to convey himself and his staff that night to Bokhara, where he was going to render an official visit to the Ameer. This was a most unexpected attention on his part and one which we felt proportionately grateful for, as otherwise we should have had to change from carriage to carriage at each halt; as it was we were enabled to install ourselves in comfort in our travelling house which was to be our head-quarters and home for more than a week. The General's suite of carriages appeared to be very complete and to include offices, dining-room, drawing-room, &c., &c. This was quite as it should be, as these had constituted his only dwelling place for some

years and still furnished him with the accommodation, necessary for himself and his staff during his frequent tours of inspection of the line under his charge. The General appeared to be very busy and to maintain a very keen supervision over every detail of the work of administration which must prove a very difficult and responsible task even for such an energetic man as himself; it is a work however of his own creation, and it is easy to imagine the pride and interest which he must take in its efficient working.

We arrived at Bokhara station about 8 A.M., and after an hour or so delay started in some carriages provided by the Political Resident, for Bokhara City, distant about ten miles off. The conveyances we travelled in did not quite come up to the standard of a Resident's carriage in India. I and the General were conveyed in an antiquated brougham drawn by two horses with a rider on each. The animals were of the sorriest description, but by dint of yells and blows were kept at a very fair speed all the way. The road was of the description of a village road in India in the hot weather, seamed with ruts and inches deep in dust; the streets which we drove through on our way to the Residency would have been a reproach to an ordinary Indian village, such was their narrowness and filthiness. After traversing the whole town we arrived at our quarters at the extreme other side of the city. These we found of the most modest description, consisting of nothing but a couple of rooms in a low mud building enclosing an open square, in fact nothing could afford a greater contrast than the unpretentiousness of the building which here constituted the Russian Residency to the buildings answering the same purpose at the smallest of the Native States in India. This consisted of nothing but an ordinary native house of a trifling superior description with just a few doors and windows knocked into them to make them habitable by Europeans. The conveniences offered were also of the most limited description, hot and

tired and dusty as we were it was with the greatest difficulty that we obtained a little water to wash with, and then the only implements procurable for this purpose were a brass bowl just big enough to put one's hands in with a jug of the same description holding about a couple of quarts of water; with these we had to manage as best we could, and having accomplished such ablutions as were feasible under the circumstances, sat down to wait for a meal of some description to stay the pangs of hunger which were beginning to attack us as a result of our long drive. But hour after hour passed and no signs of food appeared, till nearly one o'clock when a messenger came to summon us to lunch with the Resident and General Annenkoff and his staff who were waiting for us in an adjacent court of the same building. We lost no time in responding to the invitation, and I trust did full credit to the viands set before us by our hospitable entertainers.

After lunch we visited the bazaar but saw little to interest us beyond the Minar-i-Kalan which is a moderately fine tower and the Charsu and covered bazaar which is very good of its kind but not finer than the bazaar at Shikarpoor; altogether we were much disappointed in the town which struck us as almost mean besides being indescribably filthy and altogether an imposition, how it could ever have been described as Bokhara Al Sherif by even the most patriotic of its inhabitants or how such a title could have ever been tolerated by the external world is a problem that can only be solved on the principle of its being so little known, that the daring pretentiousness of the originator of the title never found any one to dispute it or expose its absurdity. It is difficult to imagine how a recent writer in his description of the place could have found field for the rhapsodies he has gone into on the subject of what he terms the present "twilight epoch of its glory" unless the glory referred is that of stinks and dirt and dilapidation;

in those respects the Bokhara of to-day will compete with any Oriental town I have ever seen, but as regards traces of previous grandeur it cannot compare with Samarcand.

We expressed a wish of course to visit the Prisons, as they appeared to be considered one of the shows of the town. We were accordingly conducted through a labyrinth of filthy alleys to the place where it was situated just outside the Fort. We found nothing remarkable about the building or its occupants, indeed I have seen a hundred worse sights of the kind in the Native States in India. Here again the writer above referred to appears to have been woefully astray, for the dungeon now covered up with a slab in the floor of the Zindan or Prison which we were shown contains the identical bug-pit in which Stoddart was tortured, at any rate the Political Resident informed us that this was the case, and that this writer's surmise as to the Kana Kaneh in the Citadel having been the scene of Stoddart's suffering was quite incorrect, and he certainly ought to know. I fancy that the latter must have allowed his imagination to run away a little with him or have been too willing to listen to the "orrible tales" of his companions, for there were no signs of the prisoners being in any way ill-treated when we showed ourselves any more than on the occasion of the visit of the *Times* Correspondent to which he refers; by the bye why does this writer insist upon talking about the Masjid Baliand or Kalian, instead of Buland and Kalan, one would think that a man of his scholastic education would have taken the trouble to find out the proper mode of spelling such words, but this is only one out of innumerable errors he has fallen into such as could never have occurred to any one with the least practical acquaintance with Eastern subjects.

The next day we spent in wandering through the Chârsu. We saw nothing very remarkable to an Anglo-Indian either about the building or the shops it contained; the only thing

that struck us was that the people appeared to be particularly orderly and that our appearance attracted less attention than that of three Europeans would have done in any bazaar in India. As to any signs of ill-will or fanatical dislike the most timid and unsophisticated European visitor to an Oriental bazaar would have found it difficult so to misinterpret any words or gestures of the crowds we passed through ; the only thing we had to complain of was that these were rather too free and easy in their demeanour, while the shopkeepers were, as would be expected, too anxious to induce us to buy their wares at exorbitant prices ; however, they failed in their object, as we saw nothing worth buying.

Lunching at the Residency, where we were again most hospitably entertained, the conversation turned on several subjects of the greatest interest, notably the infeasibility of the diversion of the Oxus to its former channel. The very fact of its ever having had a channel leading into the Caspian appeared to be a subject open to some doubt, or rather whether in olden times the Aral and the Caspian were not united, constituting one expanse of water, out of which the Caspian separated itself by evaporation, or some natural cause, the Aral remaining intact by reason of its being retained by land of a higher level than the rest of that constituting the bed of the combined seas. I dare say I am mistaken in my explanation, but this appeared to be the idea on the subject as far as I could gather. Certainly it is curious that all the maps up to the time of Peter the Great only showed one sheet of water for the combined extents of what are now distinguished as the Aral and Caspian Seas.

It was strange to find on the table and in the book-shelves of the Resident's study all the standard English works upon Central Asia, India and kindred subjects, as well as copies of the last *Times* and the *Pioneer, Civil and Military*

Gazette, &c., &c. The fact of the numbers of Russians who know English is characteristic of the spirit of enterprise and competition which is developing itself amongst them; if only nothing occurs to check the material progress, and they make as much advance in the next thirty or forty years as they have in the past since the Crimean War, they promise fair to become one of the most go-ahead people in the world. What strikes one most about their demeanour is the absence of all gush or idle talking. They seem convinced of the great future before their country and to be seriously and steadily bent upon doing their utmost, individually, to contribute towards it by acquiring all the information in their power on the various subjects affecting their interest, with a view to turning it to account whenever an opportunity of doing so may occur, and in this lies the distinction between the spirit which animates the two nations. Whereas our minds are solely exercised how to retain what we have got, theirs are entirely occupied in discussing schemes for increasing or improving their present possessions, not inconsiderately or precipitately, but slowly and steadily, step by step, calculating carefully beforehand what will be the probable result of each.

The political position of Bokhara itself and the relations of the Amir and his subjects towards the Russian Government are very curious and would be worth a more lengthy study than it was in my power to afford these interesting points in the course of a hurried visit. There is no analogy to the relative position of the two parties that I could think of in India, for while it appeared to me that the State of Bokhara was more absolutely under the control of the Russian Government than any one of what may be termed the Semi-Independent Native States of India, there were less outward signs of such control or supervision than would even be seen in such more correctly Independent

States as Nepaul or Cashmere as it used to be to a less extent. The absolute security of the Russian position in this territory is amply demonstrated by the fact that no provision is made for the protection of the Resident beyond the presence of an escort of twenty Cossacks, and this, though he lives in the midst of a populous town whose inhabitants have always been represented as exceptionally fanatic and averse to the presence of Russians amongst them. Further than this, the only troops within call in case of any *emeute* or disturbance would be at Samarcand, from which place they could not be summoned within an interval of about twenty-four hours.

The fanaticism and possible turbulent demeanour of the Bokhara population is, however, as completely a myth as many of our ideas and theories regarding the present state of affairs in Central Asia and the position of the Russians regarding them. The population of Bokhara differs in no material respect from that of Samarcand, being composed principally of Usbeg Turcomans, who have no more peculiar attributes of fanaticism or ferocity in their character than their neighbours of the same origin in the latter district. The evil character which Bokhara has gained amongst Europeans is merely owing to the fact of the inaccessibility of its position and the consequent immunity which successive tyrants ruling there have enjoyed from a retribution for their atrocious treatment of any helpless European travellers who may from time to time have fallen into their hands. Now that the relative positions have been changed and the European has become the master, the whole population has accepted the fact just as would be the case with any other Asiatic people, and while the ruler has become a mere puppet, his subjects fully appreciate the benefits of the change and are quite ready to transfer their allegiance to the *de facto* ruling element as soon as they may be permitted to do so. In the meantime, they are contented to

continue their recognition of the nominal ruler, as he is the recognised medium of communication with the former. As to any wish for independence or aversion to the *Feringhi*, I do not believe that such exists, for the ambition of the greater part is by any pretext that can be adduced to obtain the privileges of Russian naturalisation, while numbers of Russian tradesmen and merchants, &c., &c., occupy houses in various parts of the town and live amongst their Mussulman neighbours with as much apparent confidence and security as if they were in their own country. As I say, the Bokhara of history with its horrible associations of the suffering endured there by our own fellow-countrymen is as much a myth of the past as any Greek legend; it only existed at all in the light it then appeared in owing to its inaccessibility and the impossibility of bringing anything more than moral influence to bear upon it, a fact which its barbarous rulers were fully aware of; now that it is traversed by roads and railways and overawed by European troops it is no different from any part of India of the present day.

The same old rattle-trap took us back to the station at Bokhara as had brought us thence, and after an hour and a half's shaking and jolting we were thankful to find ourselves back in the special railway carriage provided for our use, where we could have a chance of making our toilet to some extent, an operation which we had been obliged to satisfy ourselves with performing in a very perfunctory manner during our stay at Bokhara itself. After a very good dinner at the station we turned in, and being hooked on to a passing train in the course of the night, found ourselves, when day broke, approaching again the banks of the Oxus. We passed over the bridge very slowly indeed, at the rate of about four miles an hour at the utmost I should think, and even then the timbers groaned and creaked as if the whole erection was on the point of giving way. Alongside one of the banks we noticed lying one of

the much talked of Oxus flotilla, which has already been the occasion of sundry grievous qualms to the timid minds who live in a state of chronic apprehension of a Russian invasion of India, and see in every trivial movement of troops or improvement of the means of communication in these parts an important step towards the realization of the nightmare with which they are haunted. To these it may be a satisfaction to know that this steamer was about the size of a penny steamboat upon the Thames and could carry at the utmost not much more than three hundred persons at a time. As the trip to Kerki takes about four days at the quickest, and is liable at any time if floods or other disturbances occur to take a great deal longer, it may be calculated what would be the time required to transport fifty thousand men or so with all their supplies by this route. There is, however, I believe one other steamer of the same size available. Having crossed the river we arrived at a little station on the opposite side surrounded by a number of buildings inhabited by civilian employés connected with the line. Here another carriage was hooked on behind ours, which was shortly filled with children, whom I found it was the custom to despatch daily by this means to a school at Charjui, from whence they returned by the evening train. I thought this incident a very striking witness to the complete and deliberate way in which the Russian civilian population in these parts had settled down to make their homes there. We arrived at Charjui, which is the great railway depôt and the head-quarters of the railway battalion in these parts about 10 A.M. Here we received a very kind invitation from General Annenkoff to come and breakfast at his house. Being still rather feverish I was unable to go myself, but the others went and were most hospitably entertained. During the morning a battalion of Infantry marched in from one of the frontier outposts, and it was quite a treat to see the springiness

and elasticity of their step after coming off a long march, and that, too, in a hot sun and covered with dust. They passed closed by the General's house, and as each Company passed he saluted it with some words of greeting, to which every man replied at once according to some recognised formula in a sort of shout. A more cheery looking lot of men I never saw in spite of the heat and fatigue they must have been suffering from. There is nothing surprises an Englishman more than the cordiality of the relations which appear to exist between the various grades of Commissioned Officers in the Russian Army and the Rank and File of the same, so different from the stand-off terms which are those on which our own officers conduct themselves towards their men ; and yet the discipline does not seem to suffer in the least in consequence. The fact is that there is something semi-Oriental about their relative positions and the light in which they regard one another. In the same way that the sepoy in India talks of his Commanding Officer as his *ma-bap*, so the soldiers of the Russian Army are taught to look upon their superior officers as standing to them *in loco parentis*, the officers themselves being gentle and considerate in their treatment of them in proportion. With such mutual relations it appears impossible that any discontent or ill-feeling can ensue on either side, while by their existence much of the docility, self-devotion and patient endurance, which are the characteristics of the Russian soldier, may be accounted for. A Russian officer may get in a rage with his men and possibly abuse them or treat them badly on occasions, but generally he is devoted to their interests and requirements, as far as one can judge, while they regard him as the friend and supporter to whom they may apply freely in every sort of difficulty, however trifling, without any fear of a rebuff or of careless hearing.

We continued our journey after lunch and next morning we found ourselves approaching the station of Bairam

Ali. Here we were again most hospitably entertained by an Engineer officer holding a position apparently similar to that of an Executive Engineer in India. He was in charge of all the buildings and public works, irrigation and otherwise. It appears to be intended that Bairam Ali should become eventually the head-quarters of the Administration of the Merv Oasis, as we were shown several really very fine houses or rather bungalows, which is a term that would give a better idea of their appearance and style, such as would compare very favourably with most buildings of a similar description in India. These were intended for the housing of the principal officials. Besides these were several fine buildings connected with the railway, intended for the accommodation of officials and others, and particularly one on a very large scale which had just been commenced, destined for the reception of the Czar whenever he should visit his private domain in the neighbourhood. Altogether there were all the signs of a rising place about Bairam Ali, and if it continues its present rate of development, quite a fine European station will be visible there in a short time. We then visited the public gardens, which are a standing proof of the extraordinary fertility of the soil in these parts. If it had not been that one's own eyes were witness to the fact, it would have been impossible to believe that the trees and shrubs which we now saw had only been planted some four or five years ago, already the poplars were some 12 to 15 feet high and the other species in proportion, but the size attained by the plants of similar species grown at Old Merv, where I took the girth of several specimens, were of still more extraordinary dimensions.

The Executive Engineer entertained us with a most interesting explanation of the scheme of irrigation which it was proposed to adopt as soon as the work of restoring the dam at Sultan Bund on the Merv Oasis, about thirty miles

it, had been completed. I have not much experience of such matters, but it appeared to me a trifle too elaborate and complicated to suit Asiatic modes of thought and procedure. The benefits accruing from the dam will not, however, be in the least affected by the fact of the efficiency or otherwise of the subsequent schemes of irrigation, if by raising the water in the river to a height of about 20 feet above its present level it will render thousands of acres of land irrigable which for many years have been lying waste for want of water ; for if once the latter requisite is rendered available, the natives of the country will not be long before they find means of making use of it. Altogether this district appears to be one of surprising fertility, and as a very large supply of water is or will be available, Bairam Ali should, if it does not make any pretence to recover its former populous condition, at any rate constitute the nucleus of a very promising community now that the populations of the neighbourhood appear to have settled down contentedly to a peaceful life and to agricultural pursuits.

In the present unsettled state of affairs it is difficult to foresee what will be the future of the Merv Oasis, but if all schemes of aggression be given up and frontier complications carefully avoided, it is impossible to believe but that it must have a great future before it. Such extraordinary powers of productiveness as the soil possesses must eventually attract the attention of neighbouring Turcoman races from various directions, and thus supply the population, which alone is wanting, to turn to account these treasures, and thus change what is now mostly a waste into a populous and wealthy district. Time alone is needed for such an eventuality and a sufficient period of peace to allow the Turcomans to forget their old restless and marauding ways and to settle down into an agricultural population, for which, as I have

said, they already appear to be developing all the requisite taste.

As yet the principal industry which has developed itself as a consequence of the contact they have been brought into with civilization has been the weaving of carpets, for which a perfect *furore* has sprung up amongst the wealthy classes in Russia, and no house of any pretensions is considered properly furnished without the presence in it of quantities of Turcoman carpets. This, however, is only a temporary fashion and the demand for these articles will quickly decrease, the more so that the Turcomans have been in such a hurry to reap this unexpected harvest of roubles that they have devoted their attention more and more to the quantity rather than the quality of the articles of this nature which they could turn out, with a consequent falling off in the latter item. The consequence is that while recently made carpets find fewer and fewer purchasers, extravagant prices are readily given for any that shew signs of age about them. Doubtless in time the at present unsophisticated Turcoman will learn to manufacture articles bearing these qualifications, at any rate as far as appearances go.

We visited of course the ruins of Bairam Ali and Giaour Killa, &c. The size of the mud fortifications of the latter is indeed astonishing even now after the lapse of so many centuries since their construction, what then must it have been when they were new? As it is they loom in the distant plain like low ranges of hills, and their ascent is so steep that it is impossible to ride up to the top except sideways. Inside these stupendous ramparts all is a dead level, not a vestige remaining of any building except in the citadel, from the midst of which rises a great mound of earth. Into this and other parts several deep cuttings had been recently driven, but with what result in the way of discoveries I was unable to ascertain. It is impossible but that these immense mounds must conceal

remains of ancient buildings which have thus lain buried for hundreds of years, and a more systematic and extensive attempt to unveil the secrets which they contain could not but be full of interest to the antiquarian and indeed to the world in general.

Apropos of these ruins it is worth noticing that but a very limited amount of burnt bricks appear to have been used in their construction; the buildings seem for the great part to have been made of sun-dried bricks, from which it would appear that in spite of the amazing fertility of the soil it never was a well wooded country to any extent in the course of its history. Another thing that strikes one is the amazing exaggerations the old Oriental writers must have indulged in in their accounts of the population of these cities and statistics of their numbers. One can see from the extent of the ruins of the several cities that they never could have contained nearly the amount of inhabitants which they are supposed to have done. On what grounds these cities could ever have gained a reputation for magnificence or any one of them arrogated to itself the title of the "Queen of the World" it is difficult to understand, such an epithet being as astonishing a piece of hyperbolism as that assigned to Bokhara of "Al Sherif" or "the Noble;" it is fortunate indeed for the outside world that "the mist of ages is beginning to rise and dissolve and the lineaments are losing their beautiful vague mystery of outline" (as a very easily impressionable writer has said) owing to the introduction of the Railway and the Electric Light. We considered the remains of the ruined cities of Merv almost as complete an imposition in the interest supposed to attach to them as the existing city of Bokhara. Any one can see in the course of a drive ten or twenty miles out of Delhi the remains of numbers of ruined cities which in their prime must have been infinitely grander than any that ever existed in the neigh-

bourhood of Merv or Bairam Ali. The beauty of the vagueness of the lineaments of these places appeared to us a matter of taste, to an unimaginative mind it consisted ostensibly of dirt and dust, concealing still greater abominations in the present or giving an idea of what must have existed in the past. To my idea the lineaments of Bokhara itself were a great deal too substantial and pronounced, while in the vagueness of those of Bairam Ali consisted their principal beauty. The fact is that like all out-of-the-way places travellers to these parts in past ages have been ashamed to come back to their homes without some wonderful tales to tell, and consequently have drawn the long bow pretty considerably about what they have seen. Samarcand is the only city that has any fine remains to bear witness to its former grandeur, and these are undoubtedly most imposing. As for Bokhara it is not in the present half as fine a town as, say, Ahmedabad, or a hundred similar cities in India, and has no traces of any pretensions to former grandeur that would hold a candle to those within and in the neighbourhood of this city, while there is nothing about the remains of the ruined cities of old Merv that would shew that these in the past were any larger or finer than Bokhara is now.

It was quite refreshing to return from these hoary impostures of the past, whose only interest was in the witness they bore to the centuries of superstition and barbarism under which the populations of these regions had languished, to the bright little European station with its smart houses and bright gardens and all the traces they bore in them of European energy and the civilising influences it was exerting to sweep away the dust and dirt of past ages and bring home to the inhabitants of the country a fact, which perhaps it will not be easy for them to realise at first, that there are other things in life worth living for besides robbery and murder and inter-tribal feuds.

I should mention that before leaving this station we were introduced to a party of Chinese Mahomedans who had migrated from the neighbourhood of Kuldja to take up land in Merv. They appeared to be very pleased with their change of abode, and I am told that numbers of similar parties are still *en route*. This is a most advantageous scheme of colonisation, as these people bear a high character for steadiness and industry and will thus be able to afford to the neighbouring less industrious population an ocular demonstration of what the land in these parts is capable of under careful cultivation, and encourage them to follow their example.

At night we returned to roost in our railway carriage, and in the morning when we woke up we found ourselves in Merv proper, or New Merv as it is called by way of distinction. This is a very flourishing European settlement, as far as one could judge from appearances, and by no means one the importance of which had ever been fictitious in the past or which bore in the present any signs of dying away. On the contrary it is the great centre of commerce with the natives of these parts and was full of Russian and Armenian shops and houses of business. Most fortunately it happened to be market day, which is only on one day in the week, and we visited the spot where the market is held in the midst of the unfinished enclosure commenced to oppose the progress of the Russians. Here we found an immense extent of ground simply crammed with buyers and sellers, all the former and most of the latter being Turcomans. It was difficult indeed to imagine where such an enormous crowd could have collected from in the midst of such an apparently sparsely inhabited country, but there they were, and all the morning long up till mid-day and after they kept pouring in from all sides; many of them apparently came from very great distances, as their horses bore traces of dust and perspiration.

Here again, as in Samarcand, it was simply astonishing to see the number of horses that were brought to the front on this occasion and which one had no idea of the existence of before, as donkeys had appeared to be the usual means of conveyance. In the market business was very brisk, every sort of local commodity or produce being visible. The principal articles of sale on the part of the Turcomans were carpets, of which they brought great rolls on their horses strapped behind the saddles, while tea appeared to be in great request for purchase by them. I examined the tea and found it to be of the same kind as that I saw at Samarcand, that is Indian green tea. Since returning home I have read in the papers that the Russian Minister of Finance, who made a tour in these parts at the same time as ourselves, proposes to place a higher duty upon this article of trade. This, I think, will be a mistake not from interested motives because I am an Englishman, but because the tea is much prized amongst these races as being almost the only thing that a strict Mahomedan can take by way of a stimulant and they are inordinately fond of drinking it, in consequence any fixed procedure that raises its price very much and thus makes it beyond their means to indulge in it to the same extent as formerly, will be very much felt by them. If the same kind of tea were procurable in any part of Russia it would be a different thing, and the Russian Government would be quite right to protect its own produce by a prohibitive duty upon imported tea; but such is not the case at any rate at present, and the art of manufacturing this quality of tea affected by the inhabitants of Central Asia is only properly understood by our own tea planters who have spent years in studying the method of preparing tea to suit the taste of this market.

The carpets produced were of all qualities, and most beautiful the greater part of them appeared to my unin-

structed eye, but one of our party, who was a specialist upon the subject, shewed wonderful powers of discriminating between the various qualities, and pointed out the several points by which these could be distinguished. In spite of the superior brilliance of colour of the new ones, the old ones appeared to be the most sought after on account of their more careful manufacture and the greater delicacy of their shades. One of the latter, bearing evident traces of age, being worn and frayed, and measuring about 6 feet by 4 feet, was bought for 50 roubles, which did not appear dear; but generally the prices charged were exorbitant and such as were quite beyond my limited means, and I contented myself with buying a couple of saddle-bags or kurjeons for 12 roubles.

The whole crowd of Turcomans wore the national head-dress, *viz.*, a huge sheepskin Busby. Indeed, they never appear to wear anything else, and the effect produced was very curious. This head-dress of course adds very much to the apparent height of the wearer, and equally exaggerates his ferocity of appearance. I can well imagine what an impressive, not to say demoralising, effect a mob of Turcomans thus costumed, with naked swords brandished in their hands, and yelling and howling as all Asiatics do on such occasions, must have had when charging down upon a body of opponents from the less warlike population in their neighbourhood, and that such a spectacle must have infallibly produced an almost irresistible inclination to take up a strategic position towards the rear. The rest of their costume appears to consist of a long loose dressing gown looking sort of garment, with a *kummerbund* wound round it. Amongst the Russians, the Tekke Turcomans have a very high character for honesty. They say that they may be trusted with anything. Certainly, as far as appearances go, they have entirely changed their rôle since they have come within the influence of Russian civilisation and

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distinguished themselves by the readiness with which they have adapted themselves to the complete alteration in their circumstances and mode of life, which has been the inevitable consequence. It was curious to notice amongst this countless crowd of what had been but a few years ago the most desperate and fanatical opponents of Russian progress numbers of Russian soldiers wandering about exchanging jests with them or engaged in driving bargains, and absolutely unarmed, without side-arms even, while not a policeman or armed man of any description was visible for the purpose of maintaining the peace, the idea of any kind of breach of it occurring seeming never to have been contemplated by the authorities. Surely, no evidence could be more conclusive of the absolute security of the Russian position amongst these populations, or of the complete guarantee for life and property which their presence has given in a country where but so recently it might be said that each man carried his life in his hands as soon as he had quitted the protection afforded by the walls of his own village.

In general terms the character of the Turcomans struck me as approaching more to that of the Beloochees—I mean Marris and Bugties—than any other people that I could think of which I had had to deal with in India, with the distinction that they did not appear to be of, by any means, so irreclaimably savage a type. There was a mingled frankness and wildness about their manners which very much reminded me of the bearing of these tribes on our own frontier, but there was none of the bluster or ferocity of Pathan about them. I am not at all surprised in consequence that it has become rather the fashion amongst the Russians to make a good deal of them, the more so that like all these high-spirited races, there is little risk of any misinterpretation on their part of such conciliatory treatment at the hands of their conquerors, but rather every

reason to suppose that it will lead to a complete forgetfulness of any personal injuries they may have received and the springing up of the most cordial relations between the two races.

To such a result we have two most striking analogies in our Indian possessions in the case of the Sikhs and Ghoorkhas, whose present loyalty and devotion to our rule is precisely in proportion to the desperateness with which they opposed us in the defence of the independence of their own countries respectively.

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on 15 October, 2018